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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Atty. Docket: OBARA=6

In re Application of:)	Confirmation No.: 9397
)	
Kouiji OBARA et al)	Art Unit: 3682
)	
Appln. No.: 10/717,572)	Examiner:
)	
Filed: November 21, 2003)	Washington, D.C.
)	
For: LINEAR MOTION GUIDE UNIT)	July 21, 2004
WITH MEANS FOR KEEPING...)	
)	

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT [IDS]

Honorable Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
2011 South Clark Place
Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Sir :

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted in accordance with 37 CFR §§1.97, 1.98, and it is requested that the information set forth in this statement and in the listed documents be considered during the pendency of the above-identified application, and any other application relying on the filing date of the above-identified application or cross-referencing it as a related application.

1. This IDS should be considered, in accordance with 37 CFR §1.97, as it is filed before the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits or before the mailing of a first Office action after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. §1.114.

2. In accordance with 37 CFR §1.98, this IDS includes a list (e.g., Form PTO/SB/08A) of all patents,

publications, or other information submitted for consideration by the office, either incorporated into this IDS or as an attachment hereto. A copy of each document listed is attached, except as explained below.

Document(s) AE - AI are U.S. patents and/or published application(s). As this is a U.S. application filed after June 30, 2003, or an entry into national stage under 35 USC §371 after June 30, 2003, the requirement to file copies of such U.S. patents or published applications has been waived. (Office of Patent Legal Administration - Pre O.G. Notice of July 11, 2003).

3. Documents AJ, AK and AN are not in the English language. In accordance with §1.98(c), Applicant(s) states:

[X] An English translation of each document AN (or of the pertinent portions thereof), or a copy of each corresponding English-language patent or application, or English-language abstract (or claim) is enclosed.

[X] A concise explanation of the relevance of documents AJ, AK and AN is found in the attached European search report (see reply to Comment 68 in the preamble to the final rules; 1135 OG 13 at 20).

4. No explanation of relevance is necessary for documents in the English language (see reply to Comments 67 and 68 in the preamble to the final rules; 1135 OG 13 at 20).

5. Other information being provided for the examiner's consideration follows:

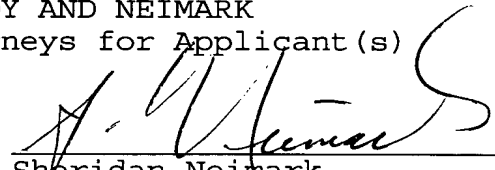
European Search Report

6. In accordance with 37 CFR §§1.97(g) and (h), the filing of this IDS should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made or that information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in §1.56 (b), or that any cited document listed or attached is (or constitutes) prior art. Unless otherwise indicated, the date of publication indicated for an item is taken from the face of the item and Applicant(s) reserves the right to prove that the date of publication is in fact different.

Respectfully submitted,

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT JUL 21 2004 (use as many sheets as necessary)		Complete if Known	
		Application Number	10/717,572
		Filing Date	November 21, 2003
		First Named Inventor	Kouiji OBARA
		Group Art Unit	3682
		Examiner Name	
Sheet 1	of 1	Attorney Docket Number	OBARA=6

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number Number-Kind Code ² (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	AE	US-2,866,505	12-30-1958	E.W. FORKNER	
	AF	US-3,857,618	12-31-1974	HAGEN et al.	
	AG	US-3,975,063	08-17-1976	MAHOTKA et al.	
	AH	US-5,076,715	12-31-1991	SAOYAMA et al.	
	AI	US-5,427,454	06-27-1995	TSUBOI	
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Number Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	AJ	DE	75 07 730 U	12-4-1975	FRANKE & HEYDRICH KG	
	AK	DE	42 17 663 A	12-03-1992	HYDREL AG	
	AL	EP	1 319 852 A2	06-18-2003	NIPPON THOMPSON CO LTD	
	AM	EP	1 277 976 A2	01-22-2003	NIPPON THOMPSON CO LTD	
	AN	JP	60-4618 A	01-11-1985	Teramachi HIROSHI	Abs

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.